

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, January 5. 1712.

I Have in my last, spoken something of the present unnatural Conjunction of two Violent Extremes, and which will, I doubt not, be the Wonder and Contempt of Posterity, I mean the New Union of our *warm Whigs* with the *Older Tories*: Were our Fathers to rise from the Dead; were my Lord *Russel*, the Earl of *Essex*, *Algernon Sidney*; Ald. *Cornish*, and the rest of the Patriots of Liberty, on whose Blood the Revolution was built as a Foundation; were these to rise from the Dead, and see their Posterity, for a meer Party Interest, fly over to the most Inveterate Party, that dip'd their Hands in the Innocent

Blood of those Days; were they to see the Zealous Patrons of Revolution Principles shake Hands with the Mortal Enemies of the Nation's Liberty, and drink in the highest rectify'd Spirits of *Farobine* Extrusion, how would they stand amaz'd, and ask 'em, if it was for this they spent their Blood? And if this be to be a Whig, or to be a Renegade to profess'd Principles?

And now let us Examine a little, what can be the *View*? What the *Design*? And in order to that, let us ask, *What is the Pretence*? As to the View and Design, no Man need conceal it — Depositing the Ministry is the Word, this is the profess'd

View

View, and both Parties are far enough from Concealing it — So that is not to be a Mystery here.

But what is the Reason then of this Design? *For every Design has a Reason*, either true or pretended, to make it seem just.

The Obsolete Men's Reason is clear, because the Ministry acting upon Principles less Violent than they expected, have not let them loose upon the *Whigs* and the *Dissenters*; have not fallen upon Persecutions, Impeachments, and every Thing that is Furious and Destroying, as they expected, agreeable to the Temper they began in; and to bring this to pass, *Ridiculous Madneses*! they go and join with the *Whigs*.

The Whigs Resentment is, the late Changes, their Friends dismiss'd, and a Peace in View; by which that Change is in Danger of being render'd Immortal, and they or their Interest foreclos'd; and to retrieve this, *improbable Project*! they go and join with the *Jacobites*, and Sacrifice the *Dissenters*. I believe I state this Impartially, without Respect to either Side; I am sure I design it so.

But having stated the true Party-Views on either Side, let us Examine a little the Pretence; and in this, however remote their Ends are, they agree, and found their New Confederacy upon it, *viz.* That the Ministry are going to give us all up to *France*, to abandon the *Allies*, to break the Confederacy; that they have made a Separate Treaty with *France*, Consented to receive 7. Ridiculous Preliminaries, and pretend to drive the Confederates to Treat upon them, as the Ground of the Peace; That they have menac'd the *Dutch* into it; That they have agreed to give *Spain* and the *Indies* to the King of *France*, or his Grandson *Philip*, which is all one; and that, in short, the present Ministry, to establish themselves, have sold us to *France*; these are not my Words, but their own; I dare say, both Parties will acknowledge them, and they repeat them every Day.

If this were true, Cursed would be he, and all the People would say Amen to it; be-

lieving it to be so, who would open his Mouth, or write one Letter with his Pen in behalf of it; and as to me, I would not endeavour to save my own Son from the Gallows, if he were Guilty of it.

But if on Examination it should appear, or by the Effects, that not a Word of this is true — Let all Men run Hand over-Head to damn and condemn for it, those, who have not acted a Step towards it, I must not, I cannot do it; and if I must bear all the Fury of the Town, because I will not yet believe it, I profess I cannot help it; when it does appear, and I do see it, I will detest both the Practice and the Persons, let them be who they will.

This Clamour of a *Separate Treaty with France*, is Calculated to answer abundance of Ends among the common People; and when I have put it close to some People, they answer me Honestly, no matter whether it be true or no; 'tis like the second Declaration of the Prince of *Orange*, which answer'd the End; and did his Business, tho' his Highness afterwards when he came in, and was King, declar'd he never knew who did it.

And how did it Answer? — It serv'd to make the People uneasy, it alarm'd the Army, and made them desert the Service of King *James*, who they believ'd was just going to employ them to cut all our Throats in Cold Blood, and to let in the *French* and *Irish* upon them, and it was effectual indeed; I cannot but think the Parallel is very justly drawn, tho' the Occasion does not appear to me to be the same.

But if, I say, after all this, the Queen, the Ministry, the Managers Abroad or at Home, should really not have done so; if there is really no secret Engagements to *France*, no private Terms made, no separate Treaty — What, then? What are we Guilty of? It is not for me to say there is, or there is not; I am let into none of these Secrets, nor do I desire it; but I must own my Satisfaction from these Things; 1st. I do not, I confess I do not see the Probability of it; 2^{dly}. The Queen has declared positively, there are no *Separate Engagements*

agements of any kind enter'd into, either by her Majesty, or any body by her Direction or Appointment ; I know I Al-front some People, when I go about to persuade them to lay any weight upon this, and therefore I must refer them to the Events ; when, if it should appear, that what her Majesty affirms, is really so, they ought I am sure to blush ; whether they will or no, Time must discover.

For the present, the whole Matter turns upon this single Point, whether there is any *Separate Treaty* made with *France* by the *British Court*, or no ; And whether we have agreed to give up *Spain* and the *Indies* to the House of *Bourbonne*, *Yea*, or *no*.

If not, then some have been to blame, and will have Reason to Repent being the Cause of all the Extremities which our Heats drive Things to ; and I wish the honest People, who have been prevail'd upon to push Things on to the Extremities that we every Day see them issue in, would Reflect, whether they are not the Cause

of many Steps being taken, which would otherwise have been let alone.

I never found, that driving Things to Extremities in *England*, had any Issue, but the Ruin and Confusion of those that were the Authors of it ; and where Moderate Councils might have taken Place, if it were otherwise, as now I fear ; too much of it will be owing to those, who would spare nothing of their Heart, to prevent or delay it — And some People may have Time to Repent both their own Heat one Way, and their betraying their Friends another Way, while the Dissenters must now be content, to expect how mercifully the Tories will use them, to whom the Whigs have deliver'd them up for Nothing, and if I may say so, for less than Nothing, and Vanity ; and while the Whigs in *England* must acknowledge, that if they are Ruin'd, it is by their own Hands.

Unhappy Nation ! When shall our Eyes be open to our own Safety and Peace ?

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I Had taken no more Notice of what the Author of the *Observer* had said, as what, by Way of Dispute, I think merits no Réply, if he had not now taken a New Course with me ; a Course, which all honest and unbiass'd Men must abhor, at least, if they have any Sense, either of Conscience or Justice in the World — And a Course, which favours rather of a Murderer than of a Disputant ; and in this, the Necessity will excuse me.

I thought we might have differ'd in Argument without Personal Malice ; I bless God I Entertain none against the worst Enemy I have ; I have not offer'd to say one Word to him or of him, but what relates to him as an Author, and to what he has Printed in the World ; but he, on the contrary, unlike a Christian, as well as a Gentleman, has Transferr'd his Rage from the *Observer* and *Review*, to *Ridpath* and

De Foe, and for want of better Arguments, Reproaches me with the Misfortunes of private Circumstances ; Things altogether Foreign to the Matter in Hand, of 22 Years standing, and which he can, on no Honourable Pretence, mention, but merely *removere Dolorem*, to Insult his Neighbour.

While, to make good the Deficiency of his Reasoning, he frequently call'd me *Bankrupt*, I held my Tongue, supposing he took that for a good Proof, that I was wrong in all I said ; for how should a *Bankrupt* have any Sense ? Or how should he Argue, that could not pay his Debts ? — But finding this would not move me, he comes closer to me, and publishes in *Observer* N^o. That no-body will trust me with a Shilling — This indeed, tho' if were true, as I thank God it is a Premeditated Untruth, weighs not one Grain in the Scale of his Argument, yet

yet forces me to speak a Word or two more than I design'd. —

If I had not at this Time, in the Lawful pursuit of my Business (by which, *and not by Writing, as he does,* I get my Bread,) support a large Family, and honestly set apart the Over-plus, to clear the Broom-brances he Reproaches me with, all which this Malicious Person has thus endeavour'd to blast and overthrow; IF, *I say,* I had not in the Course of this Business, even at *this Time,* the TRUST of several Thousand Pounds in my Hands, of other Men's Goods and Effects; IF I had not, since the Misfortune he Reproaches me with, been TRUSTED both with Publick and Private Money, to above the Value of one Hundred Thousand Pounds; and IF I was not every Day even oppos'd with the TRUSTS of both Goods and Money, by Friends, whom I will for, much more than I desire — All which Business and TRUSTS, he has thus done his utmost to Ruin and prevent, *I should have said nothing;* but as this is my Case, Justice to my Self, my Family, and such as are daily *Trusting me,* as above, obliges me to take Notice of it in the following manner.

1. I offer to refer him to several Persons of his own Knowledge and Acquaintance, who having Trusted me in Business, 500 l. and 1000 l. at a Time, will give the Lye to what he has Publish'd, and will own those *Trusts* Faithfully and Honourably Discharg'd; I think this will detect him of Malice and Falshood.

2. Had what he says been true; *He,* a profess'd *Diffamer,* ought not to have mention'd it, since thereby he only calls to Mind how I suffer'd 3500 l. Loss, for a Cause that he owns, and a Party which he ought to have more Respect for, than to force me to upbraid them with Unkindness, and to tell how easily I could have prevented that Loss with Advantage, if I would have betray'd honest Men, even *sons,* who have since forgot that Obligation; less than which Loss, would have made him a Bankrupt, I doubt, both in Cash, and in Principle.

3. That as he shews himself a Man of a Wicked and Malicious Principle, who without any just Provocation, can thus Attempt to Ruin and Overthrow a Man and his Family, who struggles with a known and unwearied Diligence, to recover his Misfortunes, and do Justice to all the World; so I cheerfully depend upon it, that God will not suffer so Malicious a purpose to have its desired Effect; and therefore I publish to all those I am Dealing with, as follows;

That all those People who have now Credited me, and whose Effects I have in my Hands, and who may be Influenc'd by this Villanous Attempt upon me to be uneasy, on a Post Letter to me they shall have immediately restor'd and deliver'd to them, or their Assigns, all their Goods, Money and Effects, to a Farthing.

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